

charging infrastructure—the single largest federal investment of its kind in history. These investments are necessary, because 43 percent of public roadways are in poor condition, 40 percent of the 600,000 bridges in the United States are at least 50 years old, and more than one-third of all bridges need repairs. In addition, the IIJA includes over \$16 billion for waterway and coastal projects, including \$2.25 billion for the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP), which supports investments in projects to upgrade and modernize ports. Coastal communities like mine in Oregon understand how important these investments are to maintain and expand ports as hubs for commerce, employment, and transportation.

Widespread and dependable public transit systems are necessary to create more equitable communities and reduce carbon emissions. Public transportation provides communities with affordable commuting options that facilitate access to employment, school and daycare, vital health care services, and more. The Department of Transportation reports that nearly half of the total carbon footprint of the typical American family with two cars comes from car transportation. The IIJA provides more than \$39 billion to support public transit, which will help reduce congestion and carbon emissions. This investment is estimated to support repairs for more than 24,000 buses, 5,000 rail cars, and thousands of miles of tracks, all of which will help connect communities and support emissions reductions. The bill also includes \$5 billion for low- and zero-emission buses—including school buses—which will help cut emissions that hurt vulnerable communities and students.

Climate change is increasing the intensity and frequency of severe weather events like the fires, heatwaves, and droughts that the Pacific Northwest has experienced over the last year. We must improve our nation's infrastructure to withstand and protect people and property from these extreme weather events. The IIJA includes \$65 billion for power and grid infrastructure resilience and expansion. This includes funding to support efforts to harden the electric grid against disruptive weather events, as well as funding to promote innovative demonstration projects that will improve grid resilience. The legislation also provides more than \$3 billion for wildfire risk reduction efforts, including funding for firefighting resources, and \$3 billion for the U.S. Forest Service to implement ecosystem restoration projects that can help minimize the spread of wildfires.

Though broadband access has steadily declined for the overall population, Americans who are non-white, less educated, lower income, and residents of rural communities disproportionately have limited broadband access. The 19 million Americans that lack access to consistent, quality broadband, may have greater difficulty realizing certain employment, educational, and social opportunities. To help remedy this disparity, the IIJA invests \$65 billion for broadband investment, including funding for state grants, additional support for rural communities and Tribes, and support to accelerate broadband uptake through digital literacy training.

By making crucial investments in our nation's infrastructure, this bill will create new, good-paying jobs and will help support our nation through the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It represents a significant commit-

ment toward a more connected and resilient nation, and I applaud the House and Senate for passage of this historic legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CORNERSTONES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Cornerstones.

Established in 1970 to address the need for affordable housing, Cornerstones has grown to become a significant human services provider and advocate for those struggling to make ends meet in Northern Virginia. Over the years, Cornerstones' scope of programs and number of clients has continued to grow. Cornerstones has expanded to cover most of northwestern Fairfax County and has been able to help more than 16,000 neighbors each year who need housing, childcare, food, or financial assistance.

Cornerstones promotes self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. The wrap-around services—provided by Cornerstones not only addresses the immediate needs of their clients, but also help provide the support needed for individuals and families to break the cycle of poverty or homelessness and begin their journey to independence and self-sufficiency. Cornerstones continues to envision a community that values all people and shares resources and services to empower those in need.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Cornerstones has continued to provide vital services and programs to the most vulnerable in our community that have been hit hard by COVID-19. With adjustments to in-person services to engage people safely, and a new focus on virtual programs, Cornerstones has been able to continue making a positive impact.

There were drastic increases in the number of individuals and families seeking assistance from the Cornerstones' Food Pantry, as well as their other services such as their youth programs, community and neighborhood resources, and housing counseling programs. Cornerstones was able to rise to the challenge and meet the demand with their dedicated staff and volunteers.

Cornerstones emphasizes the importance of stability, empowerment, and hope through their work in Fairfax County. Their commitment and resilience throughout the past 50 years, and especially throughout the pandemic, serves as a beacon of inspiration for our county as we continue to work to address the systemic inequities and barriers that exist for so many.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cornerstones for their 50th anniversary, and I sincerely thank their employees and volunteers who give their time and energy on behalf of our community. Their efforts provide immeasurable benefits to their fellow neighbors and serve as a reminder of why Fairfax County remains such a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3684, THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today I cast my vote in support of this once-in-a-generation bipartisan infrastructure bill. While the bill does not contain as many resources as I feel are needed nor is it as robust as initially envisioned, the legislation makes a momentous investment in infrastructure that Chicago and our nation desperately need.

Chicago needs the largest federal investment in public transit ever.

Chicago needs the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak.

Chicago needs to improve its bridges, highways, and schools.

Our neighborhoods need clean drinking water, our lead pipes need replacing, and our wastewater infrastructure requires substantial improvements. Parents should know that the water they're kids are drinking is safe from lead leaching out of old pipes or contaminated brownfields.

Chicago needs the good paying jobs—union jobs—with an expected 2 million jobs per year with critical labor protections, buy America provisions to support manufacturing here at home, and jobs in the growing clean energy industry.

Chicago needs the historic investment in highspeed internet to every American household to erase the digital divide and improve equity in technology access. Students, workers, and seniors on the West Side of Chicago shouldn't be locked out of education, applying for jobs, and accessing services by limited internet.

Chicago needs the cleaner environment that comes with electric buses and renewable energy. African American children experience higher rates of asthma, and diesel air pollution hurt our communities.

This legislation advances economic and public health opportunities for people of color. The effects of decades of disinvestment have fallen hardest on communities of color. Through substantial investments in good-paying jobs, affordable high-speed internet, public transportation, safe drinking water, and modern bridges and roads, this bill works to improve racial and economic equity.

I wholeheartedly support the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act because doing so guarantees tens of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs for Illinois, helping revitalize my community and communities across the country.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MERRIFIELD FOR THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 5, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the First Baptist Church of Merrifield